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115A-0037

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February 19, 1962

STAT

Trip Report  
Detachment H 1/11/62

Morale of the entire unit seems to be quite good and mutual cooperation seems excellent. The "Ro-up" rate is satisfactory. Bob is satisfied with all of his people except one man. In this case he feels that the man is not only weak technically but has other undesirable characteristics. Will be discussed with Stan.

The Security situation seems satisfactory and accepted by the personnel. Bob has one complaint that the military still come out carrying their uniforms.

The Supply System is apparently in excellent shape. No one has any complaints and all think quite highly of Peté. Pete in turn is quite enthusiastic concerning cooperation received from WRAMA.

Operationally they appear to be able to maintain a very high flying schedule of four to five flights a week and the local pilots appear to be well trained. The present vehicle will shortly be in need of major overhaul. They actually need two vehicles here to maintain such flying schedules - particularly if operational activity is to increase. It is felt that two vehicles could be supported without additional contract manpower.

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The Logistic planning for the transportation of [redacted] was very poor. The vehicle landed at about 1500 local and all necessary tracker duplication was completed so that the entire film shipment could have left here seven hours later. There were, however, two restrictions placed on the shipment. One was that the duplicate Elint tapes must go with it. These take up to 20 hours to reproduce with any quality. The other restriction was that Mil-Air must be used as far as the ZI. Normal Mil Air in this area is just not very frequent. Even though all alternate paths were explored, the film did not leave the base until 66 hours after touchdown. My own recommendations would be that the B film be shipped immediately (within 2 hours of landing) by

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Special Mil Air (KC 135, C130, etc.) to the ZI or to Hickam and that Com Air be used thereafter. The original tracker and Elint tapes could be sent by another courier via Com Air as soon as available.

Such a procedure would have two advantages. It would get the [ ] copies back here as promptly as possible and it would keep them occupied with study of the tracker. There is going to be considerable agitation for quicker delivery of the B copies as soon as they see the first one. I think the only thing that saved us this time was the high percentage of cloud cover.

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General Sanborn is reported to be disturbed by fact that he did not receive the PI report until three days after the Navy and others had their copies.

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The [ ] laboratory was immaculate - it should have been STAT since they took the last three days to clean it up. They claim our equipment is working very satisfactorily, but it is difficult to tell much because they started a new stock record system on the first of the year and there is no record of previous withdrawal of parts.

The EH6A machines are generally in good condition, although the refrigeration unit on one is out of action and the heater relays on another are stuck closed. These are normal troubles for these machines.

I reviewed several rolls of B material which I selected at random and the physical quality is remarkably high. The only defects I could detect were due to humidity in storage with the resultant pull off of emulsion. They much prefer to use 1-D-80 in the EH6A for several reasons. It is easy to obtain and mix, it allows a higher machine speed and it gives higher contrast. This last point is disconcerting. I asked the P.I. to show me examples of what he thought were "good" transparencies and he whipped out a set that were practically black on white. In fact, they think our photographic reproductions are "muddy", "lifeless", etc. We may have to increase contrast on the copies we provide these people, but I got them to agree to accept this mission as we would normally reproduce it.

Because they are forced to use the output of the tracker so extensively I think the least we can do is to provide them with the best possible printer. We could do this by taking one of the Model 4s from our shop (now surplus due to Concord's) and adding the light intensity changer which should be in the stockroom.

For the same reason they should have a good enlarger. It would be desirable to have one that could handle 9" film as well as 70mm. It might be possible to educate them to work from

transparencies, but it would be difficult and they would need additional light tables, etc.

In our field the greatest deficiencies that exist in the STAT laboratory are in the chemical mixing area. They just don't have any except the three 25 gallon tanks which we provided. Also they lack refrigeration which they need as their water gets up into the 80s in the summer. In fact, they have periods when they can't keep the Dayton down to 90°F. Air conditioning is inadequate for the processing rooms. How much of this is due to inadequate equipment and how much is due to poor layout balancing and maintenance is not known, but it does appear reasonable to expect a 25 ton unit to be adequate.

We ought to check over the B film stock at WRAMA and see if it is still keeping. There have been complaints of film out of control (i.e., too slow). Also there have been several telescoped rolls. [redacted] STAT

While I was there we ran into several rolls of film where the two spool bearings were out of line with one another. The misalignment was not great - the shafts would go in but would not turn freely if in both bearings. Also there are a number of spools (not necessarily with film on them) which have scored bearings. I don't know who has responsibility for inspection and overhaul on these spools. Obviously we could detect scored bearings but misaligned bearings would not show up on our spooling machines. We could check the latter with a suitable "simulated shaft" gage. Or inspection could be done at WRAMA or Hycon. An SOP should be established. [redacted] STAT

Two rolls referred to above were:

161-16-2-3-1 Box 138  
161-10-13-12-3-1 Box 266

These people are still trying to use that horrible white rayon splicing tape that went out several years ago. Provide stock number on Black Tape. [redacted] STAT

All of their sling psychrometers have broken thermometers. Provide ordering info on thermometer - Taylor Tycos 20 - 120°F about 12" long. [redacted] STAT

Since the locals do considerable work from the tracker perhaps we ought to shift to SO-243 or the standard base equivalent of SO-130 if allowable exposures are sufficient. This would provide better enlargements - but they do need a decent enlarger. [redacted] STAT

We are still running into B boxes which do not have the box number stamped on the inside of the lower (when opened) box legs. If we can't get KP to do this, let's do it ourselves. [redacted] STAT

ELG/MDG

cc: JLB, ABS, FCEO, JAO, DTA

E. L. G.